MassDEP / Drinking Water Program
100 Cambridge Street – 9th Floor; Boston, MA 02114
Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770
In The Main - The Drinking Water Updates can be found online at:
mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers or at the Statehouse Archives at:
https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119 which has a searchable database.

Butler Cove, Buzzards Bay, Photo by: Grace Ronca

This *In The Main* newsletter has these topics of interest 2025-07-11

Are you looking for past issues or topics in our *In the Main* newsletter?

Use the search function in the Statehouse Archives at:
https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119

Deadlines, New Templates, Forms, Guidance, & More

UPDATED Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notice Templates

PWS with lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines in their SLI must send out SLI Consumer Notices (CNs) **annually**. **This is a new recurring requirement** under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). SLI CNs required for 2025 must be distributed by December 31, 2025! Updated (as of June 2025) templates are available on the Lead and Copper Forms and Templates webpage: https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-copper-forms-and-templates#lead-&-copper-rule-revisions-(lcrr)-. Also refer to the article "LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates" for additional information.

UPDATED Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance Released!

MassDEP DWP has released an updated Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance, which is effective as of July 3, 2025. This guidance was updated based on the review of how statistical analysis was used by Massachusetts PWS in their initial SLIs submitted in 2024. The updated guidance is available here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/statistical-predictive-modeling-guidance-for-evaluating-unknown-service-lines/download. Also refer to the article "LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates" for additional information, including where to access a redlined version.

AWIA Round 2 – RRA and ERP Certification Deadlines

MassDEP DWP reminds Community PWS serving a population over 3,300 of their RRA and ERP Certification Deadlines to EPA. Also refer to the article "AWIA Compliance Round 2: RRA and ERP Deadlines and a Reminder on Tier 1 PNs" for additional information.

Community Water System size (by population served as of March 31, 2024)	**Certify Risk & Resilience Assessment (RRA) by:**	**Certify Emergency Response Plan (ERP) within 6 months of RRA, but no later than:**
≥ 100,000	March 31, 2025	September 30, 2025
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2025	June 30, 2026
3,300 – 49,999	June 30, 2026	December 30, 2026

MassDEP Press Release: Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards $14.7 Million to Address PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants

Released July 8, 2025

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced more than $14.7 million in grants have been awarded to 21 public water suppliers to promote consistent access to clean drinking water for Massachusetts residents. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) selected these projects to help treat and remove contaminants such as PFAS and manganese.

"Our communities need help taking on emerging contaminants like PFAS and manganese," said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper**. "We have a responsibility to work together so that every water supplier has the support they need in navigating these challenges, and that water rates are kept affordable as they do. We are doubling down on this work further in our Mass Ready Act to keep our drinking water safe and clean."

"Massachusetts has some of the oldest infrastructure in the nation and ensuring everyone has access to safe and healthy drinking water requires significant upgrades," said **MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple**. "We're directing these dollars to where they're needed most: in small and disadvantaged communities that otherwise may not be able to complete these critical upgrades. Combined with Governor Healey's commitment to remediate PFAS in the

Mass Ready Act, Massachusetts is working nonstop to ensure our public water suppliers have the support they need for these critical water projects."

Last month, Governor Healey introduced the Mass Ready Act, a historic bill that proposes nearly $3 billion in bond authorizations to strengthen infrastructure and protect Massachusetts communities against increasing extreme weather events. The Mass Ready Act will invest $505 million to remediate PFAS and support clean water infrastructure.

This funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to assist small and disadvantaged communities in improving their drinking water through projects and activities that address emerging contaminants that are registered on EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists.

PFAS and manganese are among the list of contaminants that are increasingly impacting water resources. PFAS are a group of harmful man-made chemicals widely used in common consumer products, industrial processes, and in certain firefighting foams. Exposure to sufficiently elevated levels of PFAS compounds may cause a variety of health effects, including developmental effects in infants, impacts to certain organ functions and the immune system, and an elevated cancer risk. Manganese is a naturally occurring element that's present in water, soil, air, and food. While a small amount of manganese is necessary for good health, long-term exposure to high levels in drinking water may have adverse impacts to the nervous system.

The EPA allotted Massachusetts $38,204,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 and $19,249,000 in 2024 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant program.

The second round of projects selected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and confirmed by EPA are awarded to the following public water systems:

PWS Name and Allotment	Project Description
Brook Village Condominium, Boxborough - $1,534,000 **Codman Hill Condominium, Boxborough - $930,000** **Harvard Ridge Condominium, Boxborough - $1,462,000**	These public water systems are using these funds on a consolidation project with the Littleton Electric Light and Water Department due to PFAS contamination.
Centerville Osterville Marstons Mills Water Department, Osterville - $1,000,000	The public water system will use these funds for the construction and installation of treatment facilities to remove PFAS from several water system wells.
Curtis Hill Condominium, Tyngsborough - $51,976.93	The small community public water system is using the funds to install a PFAS treatment system.
Dartmouth Water Division - $100,000	Dartmouth plans to utilize these funds for the planning and design phases for a PFAS treatment system, including non-routine PFAS sampling for evaluation of contamination and preparation of a report summarizing findings.
Aquarion Water Company, Dover - $850,000	The public water system intends to use these funds on the installation of PFAS treatment to an existing well and the design and construction of an interconnection with the Dedham-Westwood Water District.
Old Farm Road Water Trust, Dover - $350,000	The public water system will use these funds on the construction of an interconnection between Old Farm Road Water Trust and the Aquarion Water Company's existing water main in Dover, Massachusetts.

Town of Dudley, Dudley - $600,000	The town intends to use the funds to design and permit an extension of the municipal water system to connect private wells that have been contaminated with PFAS in the Eagle Drive/Fairview Avenue area of Dudley. In addition to the engineering design, the Project includes coordination with the homeowners, permitting, and SRF construction application.
Scantic Valley Water District, Hampden - $1,000,000	The public water system will use the funds on a water main extension project and connections that will expand the existing public water system to supply clean drinking water to residences impacted by PFAS. The project will also include the required replacement of the existing water pumping facility and increase the water storage capacity.
Leicester Water Supply District, Leicester - $1,000,000	The Leicester Water Supply District will use the funds on planning an interconnection to the Worcester Water Supply to address PFAS. The project would supply water via the Leicester-Worcester Interconnection, which is currently under construction. This would replace the capacity lost by taking Rawson Well 5 offline.
Millville Elementary School, Millville - $1,000,000	The public water system will use these funds for pilot testing and design of PFAS treatment and the construction of a replacement well.
Montague Center Water District, Montague - $100,000	The public water system will utilize these funds on a pilot and feasibility study to address PFAS contamination in the community's well.
Onset Fire District Water Department, Onset - $100,000	The public water system will utilize these funds on a pilot and feasibility study for PFAS, iron, and manganese removal.
Palmer Water District #1, Palmer - $100,000	The public water supplier will use the funds for a pilot study and feasibility study on removing manganese from the source water with principal engineering oversight.
Sherborn Town Offices, Sherborn - $100,000	The public water system is using these funds on the preliminary design and installation of a PFAS treatment system.
Woodhaven Elderly Housing Trust, Sherborn - $100,000	The public water system is connecting another public water system, Leland Farms, and implementing water treatment improvements to address PFAS and other contaminants.
Stones Throw Condominium, Truro - $54,445.34	The public water system will use these funds on testing, engineering, permitting, and installation associated with PFAS treatment at the system's well house.
Tyngsborough Water Department, Tyngsborough - $45,000	The Tyngsborough Water Department is using these funds for an interconnection project to the municipal water supply with the Plaza at Pondview Place, a small

	non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water system.
Uxbridge DPW Water Division, Uxbridge - $1,200,000	The town's public water system will use the funds to design and construct a new water treatment plant for manganese and PFAS treatment.
West Bridgewater Water Department, West Bridgewater - $3,100,000	The town's public water system will use these funds on planning and design, and construction of two treatment facilities to address PFAS and manganese.

Visit the **Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant** page for more information about the grant program. To learn more about the communities that have received these grants, visit MassDEP's **EC-SDC Grants Map**.

AWIA Compliance Round 2: RRA and ERP Deadlines and a Reminder on Tier 1 PNs

Deadlines for submitting certification that your Public Water System has updated its Risk and Resiliency Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) are fast approaching.

- **Community Public Water Systems serving a population of over 100,000 must certify updates to their ERPs within six months after the date they submitted their RRA certification, but not later than September 30, 2025.**
- **Community Public Water Systems serving a population of 50,000 to 99,999 must certify updates to their RRAs by the end of this year, December 31, 2025.**

Community Water System size (by population served as of March 31, 2024)	Certify Risk & Resilience Assessment (RRA) by:	Certify Emergency Response Plan (ERP) within 6 months of RRA, but no later than:
≥ 100,000	March 31, 2025	**September 30, 2025**
50,000 – 99,999	**December 31, 2025**	June 30, 2026
3,300 – 49,999	June 30, 2026	December 30, 2026

The American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was first passed in 2018 and requires community water systems to certify that they have prepared and updated their Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). Community water systems are required to recertify to EPA that their RRAs and ERPs are up to date every five years. With changes from the past five years including supply chain issues, cybersecurity concerns, and increased funding opportunities, public water systems may have a lot to update in their RRAs and ERPs.

A comprehensive list of requirements, resources, FAQs, fact sheets, training recordings, and guidance for preparing and certifying updates to your RRAs and ERPs with the EPA can be found at https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013.

What are RRAs and ERPs?

A **Risk and Resiliency Assessment (RRA)** is an assessment of a water system's assets and the risks to and resilience of those assets to malevolent acts and natural hazards. RRAs include an evaluation of the capital and operational needs for a system's risk and resilience management. RRAs include an assessment of items such as, but not limited to:

1. the risk to the system from malevolent acts and natural hazards;
2. the resilience of the pipes and constructed conveyances, physical barriers, source water, water collection and intake, pretreatment, treatment, storage and distribution facilities, electronic, computer, or other automated systems (including the security of such systems) which are utilized by the system;
3. the monitoring practices of the system;
4. the financial infrastructure of the system;
5. the use, storage, or handling of various chemicals by the system; and
6. the operation and maintenance of the system.

An **Emergency Response Plan (ERP)** is a document that incorporates the findings from the RRA to create action plans and gather critical information for water systems to respond to emergencies in their system. ERPs include, but are not limited to:

1. strategies and resources to improve the resilience of the system, including the physical security and cybersecurity of the system;
2. plans and procedures that can be implemented, and identification of equipment that can be utilized, in the event of a malevolent act or natural hazard that threatens the ability of the system to deliver safe drinking water;
3. actions, procedures, and equipment which can lessen the impact of a malevolent act or natural hazard on the public health and the safety and supply of drinking water provided to communities and individuals, including the development of alternative source water options, relocation of water intakes, and construction of flood protection barriers; and
4. strategies that can be used to aid in the detection of malevolent acts or natural hazards that threaten the security or resilience of the system.

All PWS in Massachusetts are required to have an updated ERP (310 CMR 22.04(13)). PWS can refer to Chapter 12 and Appendix O of the *Guidelines* for more resources about ERPs.

How do I certify my RRA and ERP to EPA?

Public Water Systems can certify updates to their RRA and ERP by filling out the RRA/ERP Certification Statement and uploading the signed document using one of three methods:

1. Electronic submission
2. Email
3. Regular mail

EPA strongly recommends submitting RRA/ERP Certification Statements via electronic submission. Guidance for submitting your RRA/ERP and downloading the Certification Statement documents can be found at https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan. **Do not submit your updated RRA and ERP to EPA or to MassDEP, as those documents may contain sensitive information about your system.**

How do I submit ERP Compliance Checklists to MassDEP/DWP?

DWP requires PWS to submit an ERP Compliance Checklist whenever there are substantive changes to a PWS's ERP. PWS should submit an updated ERP Compliance Checklist once they have made updates to their ERP. PWS can submit their updated checklists to the Program Director at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: ERP Compliance Checklist. **Reminder: PWS should NOT submit their full ERP documents to DWP, as those documents contain sensitive information about their system.**

MassDEP RRA/ERP Certification Reminder Letters for Community PWS

On June 30, 2025, MassDEP/DWP sent a letter to Community PWS serving over 100,000 to provide a 3-month reminder about the ERP certification deadline of September 30, 2025. You can find that letter at https://www.mass.gov/doc/reminder-3-month-notice-for-emergency-response-plan-erp-certification-for-pws-serving-100000/download.

Additionally, on June 30, 2025, MassDEP/DWP sent a letter to Community PWS serving between 50,000 and 99,999 to provide a 6-month reminder about the RRA certification deadline of December 31, 2025. You can find that letter at https://www.mass.gov/doc/reminder-6-month-notice-for-risk-and-resiliency-assessment-rra-certification-for-pws-serving-between-50000-and-99999/download.

EPA Reminder Letters

On July 1, 2025, EPA sent several letters to Community PWS regarding RRA and ERP certification deadlines. The following list summarizes the letters that were sent by EPA.

1. To Community PWS serving over 100,000 who did **not** certify updates to their RRA by the deadline of March 31, 2025, reminding them to submit their RRA certification AND to submit their ERP certification by the deadline of September 30, 2025.
2. To Community PWS serving over 100,000 who certified updates to their RRA by the deadline of March 31, 2025, reminding them of the ERP certification deadline of September 30, 2025.
3. To Community PWS serving between 50,000 and 99,999, reminding them of their RRA and ERP certification deadlines.
4. To Community PWS serving between 3,301 and 49,999, reminding them of their RRA and ERP certification deadlines.

Reminder from MassDEP/DWP on Tier 1 Public Notification Templates

MassDEP/DWP Public Notification (PN) regulations (310 CMR 22.16) include specific requirements for notifying the public of all emergencies involving violations of drinking water regulations. If a "Do Not Drink," "Boil Water," or "Do Not Use" order is issued, the Public Notification process should be initiated immediately upon determination by MassDEP/DWP and comply with the public notification and reporting requirements of 310 CMR 22.00. Tier 1 PNs, which are required for violations and situations with significant potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure, require PWS to provide public notice to their impacted consumers within 24 hours of learning of the emergency. During this 24-hour period, PWS must also contact and consult with their MassDEP/DWP Regional Office to determine any additional PN requirements.

MassDEP DWP strongly recommends that PWS have all PN outreach materials prepared and pre-approved as part of their ERP so that in an emergency, these resources can be quickly customized and disseminated to all relevant parties.

Where can I find more information about this topic?

Use the following resources to learn more about RRAs, ERPs, AWIA, and more.

- MassDEP *Guidelines for Public Water Systems*, Chapter 12 – Emergency Response Planning Requirements: https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-chapter-12-emergency-response-planning-0/download
- MassDEP *Guidelines for Public Water Systems*, Appendix O – Handbook for Water Supply Emergencies: https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-public-water-systems-appendix-o-handbook-for-water-supply-emergencies-0/download
- Previous MassDEP *In the Main* newsletters, including March 7, 2024; September 6, 2024; December 13, 2024; January 10, 2025; March 7, 2025; March 21, 2025; and April 18, 2025
- EPA Drinking Water and Wastewater Resilience: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience

- EPA Water Resilience - AWIA Section 2013: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/awia-section-2013
- EPA How to Certify Your RRA or ERP: https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/how-certify-your-risk-and-resilience-assessment-or-emergency-response-plan

Power Outages: Tips and Resources for Public Water Suppliers

Losing power in a drinking water facility due to natural events such as a hurricane, flood, blizzard, or ice storm, or due to human/cyber interference could have devastating effects.

Some of the consequences of losing electric grid power at drinking water facilities might include pressure loss and boil water advisories or a reduction or cessation of water treatment.

In light of the potential threats extreme weather or man-made interference pose to power availability, MassDEP recommends Public Water Systems exercise the following precautions, especially before known storm events, to not only prepare for but mitigate such power outage crises from occurring:

- Review your Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for procedures related to responding to power outages.
- Top off all fuel tanks of emergency vehicles.
- Exercise all emergency generators under load and make sure you have an adequate fuel supply for these generators.
- Ensure you have an adequate supply of all bulk chemicals and contact your chemical suppliers to ensure that adequate disinfection chemicals are available.
- Review communications plans, prepare preliminary notices, and test communications equipment.
- Check the status of water quality sampling equipment and contact laboratories to ensure they will be available to conduct sample analysis, if necessary.
- Join MA WARN to obtain rapid mutual aid from neighboring PWS in the event of an emergency

In an emergency where you suspect contamination from oil and/or hazardous materials, contact both your local fire department and MassDEP Emergency Response: 1-888-304-1133.

Always remember it is better to be **proactive** when it comes to Emergency Response Planning than *reactive*, as the damage a power outage can do to a public water utility is too serious to be overlooked, even before an emergency occurs.

Additional Resources:

- Power Resilience for the Water and Wastewater Sector | US EPA
- Incident Action Checklist - Power Outages
- Preparing for Extreme Weather Events and Response Guidance | Mass.gov
- Storm Preparedness & Emergency Response Resources | Mass.gov

Request for PWS Volunteers: DWP/PWS Job Shadowing Program 2025

Last year, MassDEP/DWP coordinated the DWP/PWS Job Shadowing Program between newer DWP staff and several PWS throughout the state. The purpose of the Job Shadowing Program is to give newer staff from DWP the opportunity to shadow operators at PWS and observe the work operators perform on a regular basis. You can read

about last year's Job Shadowing experience in the *In the Main* newsletter from 8/8/2024: https://www.mass.gov/doc/in-the-main-drinking-water-program-updates-08-09-2024/download

For this year's edition of the Job Shadowing program, **DWP is seeking PWS volunteers, specifically from the Southeast Region (SERO) and the Western Region (WERO), who are interested and able to host DWP staff as part of the Job Shadowing program**. If you are interested in participating in the Job Shadowing program or have any questions about participating, please reach out to the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject: DWP/PWS Job Shadowing Program.

Reminder: Report Summer Fish Kills

Fish can die when oxygen levels get too low during the warm summer months. While most fish kills are natural events, make sure you report it so MassWildlife biologists can investigate the cause. Click here to **Learn how to report.**

Thank You for Submitting Your Consumer Confidence Reports!

We have wrapped up yet another successful Consumer Confidence Report season with over 500 submittals and a **compliance rate of ~97%!** Community public water systems that failed to comply will receive enforcement notices in the coming days. Thank you to all water suppliers that submitted your CCRs on time, we greatly appreciate your effort on this matter.

LCR, LCRR, and LCRI Updates

Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notice (CN) Certification Forms were due by July 1st!

Thank you to all systems which submitted their SLI CN Certification Forms by midnight, July 1st! **PWS had a submission compliance rate of 97%.** Of our 235 systems which had lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines, only 7 did not submit the certification form on time.

Remember to send out your 2025 Service Line Inventory (SLI) Consumer Notices this year!

This is a reminder to systems that if your PWS has lead, GRR, and/or unknown service lines in your SLI, you must send out SLI CNs **annually**. This is a new recurring requirement under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). If your system has identified any unknowns, or replaced any lead/GRR service lines, your PWS is encouraged to submit an updated SLI a few days before distributing your consumer notices, so when your system certified their distribution next year, MassDEP has an accurate, updated SLI to compare your certification form to.
2025 SLI CNs must be distributed by December 31, 2025! Updated (as of June 2025) templates are available on the Lead and Copper Forms and Templates webpage: https://www.mass.gov/lists/lead-copper-forms-and-templates#lead-&-copper-rule-revisions-(lcrr)-.

NEW Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance Released!

MassDEP DWP has released an updated Statistical Analysis and Predictive Modeling Guidance, which is effective as of July 3, 2025. This guidance was updated based on the initial SLIs submitted in 2024, after careful review of their reports and how statistical analysis was used for Massachusetts PWS.

The updated guidance is available here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/statistical-predictive-modeling-guidance-for-evaluating-unknown-service-lines/download.

Key Points, New Additions, and New Requirements:

- All systems that would like to use statistical analysis and/or predictive modeling as a verification method must be **approved** to use this method prior to conducting work (page 1).
- A clear section on the limitations of statistical analysis and predictive modeling, which PWS should consider prior to planning to conduct either method (pages 2-5)
    - Systems which find lead in their initial investigations, **or have lead in their SLI already,** cannot use statistical analysis as a verification method alone (page 3)
- Systems must meet a GRR acceptance limit and process to have their statistical analysis approved for use:
    - **Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) acceptance limit and process: A maximum of 2.5% of all service lines verified by statistical analysis, which must be less than or equal to 25 service lines, that could be GRR if the material is discovered to be a galvanized material is acceptable (page 4)**.
    - PWS which meet the GRR acceptance limit and process must also provide for MassDEP/DWP's approval a Non-Lead Validation Compliance Plan, which describes the PWS's approach to finding possible GRR service lines during non-lead validations) **(page 4)**.
- A new Q&A section (pages 8-10).
- Clearer requirements listed in the General Statistical/Predictive Model Verification Method Requirements table (pages 5-7).

Why was this guidance changed?
This guidance was updated as MassDEP DWP had concerns with systems which found GRR service lines during their investigations, and also systems which did not find GRR service lines during investigations but had a high rate of non-lead service lines which could be GRR if the private service line material is galvanized.

Some systems which discovered galvanized and GRR service lines, due to the amount of inspections, had a truly small chance of finding further GRR service lines in the future, while others which did not find GRR service lines had a large chance of this, because of the amount of galvanized service lines found.

Our initial guidance did not address the complexity of GRR service lines in a statistical analysis, which is important to address for public health protection. Many initial SLIs also only used a private service line statistical analysis, which can cause a higher possible rate of GRR, since the public service lines are largely unknown, or unknown if they were ever lead.

Because of this, MassDEP DWP will be reviewing all statistical analysis and predictive modeling requests going forward for approval, to ensure PWS that plan to use this method and invest heavily are aware of the requirements and only systems which are likely to meet these approval requirements are allowed to use these methods.

A redlined copy of this guidance, including all changes made from the May 2024 version, is available here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/lcrrlcri-statistical-modeling-and-predictive-model-guidance-redline-2024-2025-version/download

MassDEP/DWP Contacts

For all questions on LCR, LCRR and LCRI, please contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water Update

Water-Smart Program Update

Water-Smart (formally known as the Expanded Assistance Program) provides free analysis of lead drinking water samples and technical assistance to eligible public and private schools and early education and childcare facilities (EECFs) by assisting with sampling, results interpretation, and guidance on remediation actions. The program is funded by a grant from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

Currently, 1142 schools and EECFs are participating in the program and 1000 (88%) of participating facilities are within economically disadvantaged communities. To date, 1041 schools and EECFs have completed testing. Of facilities that have tested and received results, 689 (66%) had one or more lead detections.

Do you know of any schools or childcare facilities that could benefit from the Water-Smart Program? Please identify and encourage schools and childcares within your service area to participate in the program. Eligible facilities may apply for assistance at: https://tinyurl.com/Water-SmartProgram.

Get Ahead with Lead Testing: Join the Water-Smart Pilot Program for Public Water Systems

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proud to invite all Community Public Water Systems (PWS) to the *Water-Smart Pilot Program for PWS* – a forward-thinking initiative designed to help water systems stay ahead of upcoming federal regulations.

Starting **November 1, 2027**, all PWS will be **required to offer** lead testing to schools and childcare facilities that were built or have not had plumbing replacements since 2014 under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Rather than wait, the *Pilot Program* gives PWS a head start—leveraging the well-established **Water-Smart Program**, which has already tested over 1,000 schools and childcare facilities across the Commonwealth.

Through the pilot program, MassDEP and UMass Amherst cover the cost of lead testing and provide all necessary outreach materials, sampling plans, and follow-up support. PWS simply help identify eligible facilities, assist with local outreach and help collect samples. The process is simple, cost-free, and designed to set you up for success when the rule goes into effect.

Participating in the Pilot Program allows PWS to:

- Offer a valuable service to schools and childcare centers now,
- Fulfill future federal requirements early,
- Build community trust, and
- Access expert technical support at no cost.

Don't wait for 2027—Be Proactive, get ahead today. To join the pilot program or receive more information, email Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov with the subject line: **"Pilot Program for PWS."**

PFAS Update

MassDEP released an article on July 8, 2025 about the Emerging Contaminants – Small or Disadvantaged Communities grant program, which provides funding for PWS to address emerging contaminants issues such as PFAS. You can read this press release in the article "MassDEP Press Release: Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards $14.7 Million to Address PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants" located above.

Drinking Water Trivia!

Tickle your brain and test your knowledge on drinking water related information. In each issue, we will ask 1-3 questions and provide the answers somewhere else in the newsletter to encourage your sleuthing skills.

When was the longest drought in Massachusetts?

A. 1961 to 1969
B. 1276 to 1299
C. 1930 to 1934
D. 1903 to 1918

Check out the other articles while looking for the answer. If you would like to send in a Trivia question or two, please email the question and answer to pdirector-dwp@mass.gov, Subject DWP Trivia.

Training Calendar

When you need training, please look at the training calendar located at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html.

Board of Certification Training Page and List of Approved Courses

You may also want to go to the Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities Operators training page and view the approved education courses to sit for examination. Go to: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/board-of-certification-of-operators-of-drinking-water-supply-facilities-approved-education-courses-to-sit-for-examination

Some Newly Added Trainings on the Calendar

CRT126AT: BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE TESTER RECERTIFICATION REVIEW TRAINING
Monday, July 14, 2025; 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET; Holliston
This course blends refresher information with hands-on testing and covers key areas of cross connection and backflow prevention control. It also incorporates a thorough hands-on review of testing procedures on various devices from different manufacturers. Students may opt to take just this course, just the practical exam, or both the course and exam (although the course is recommended for anyone wishing to take the practical exam). 0.5 CEUs, $465 Training & Exam Register here

CBF126AT: BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE INSPECTORS/TESTER TRAINING
Tuesday, July 14 through Friday, July 18, 2025; 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET; Holliston
This course will help students understand cross connection control and provide them with the knowledge to test backflow prevention devices. Written and practical exams for students to become a NEWWA-certified Backflow Prevention Device Inspector/Tester are given on the last day of the course. Classroom and hands-on instruction will cover cross connections and their health hazards; backflow and its many types; how to test three types of backflow prevention devices; how to choose the appropriate device for a facility; troubleshooting; and regulations and codes.

Note that NEWWA certification is universally accepted (except with Aqua America in Pennsylvania), however, some states such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York require their own certification, separate from the NEWWA certification. This will be discussed during the course. CBF126AT, 2.0 CEUs, $775 Register here

Green Infrastructure Webinar Series: The Power of Partnerships for Green Infrastructure
Thursday, July 17, 2025; 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. ET; webinar
The U.S. faces a significant infrastructure funding gap, making the task of meeting stormwater management demands challenging for any single entity. To address current and future infrastructure needs, partnerships and innovative investment methods are essential. In this webinar, we will explore various types of partnerships, their benefits, and their purpose within green infrastructure. This includes partnerships between state and federal entities, as well as collaborations involving public, nonprofit, and private organizations. Practitioners from three cities – Milwaukee, Seattle, and Philadelphia – will present case studies of successful green infrastructure projects that owe their success to effective collaboration among entities. Register here

Ask Me Anything! State Revolving Fund (SRF) Technical Assistance & Open Office Hours: Asset Management and Capital Improvements Plans
Monday, July 21, 2025; 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET; webinar
Ask Me Anything SRF Office Hours will expand your knowledge and enhance your ability to navigate the SRFs. These sessions are tailored for state agencies, utility operators, and stakeholders who support water infrastructure projects. Each session will feature a specific theme, providing clarity, strategies, and practical insights for preparing and managing an SRF funded project. Participants can attend all sessions or select those that best meet their needs. Submit your questions in advance or bring them to the session for real-time support from our experts. Register here

Building the Ark: Neighborhood Stormwater Strategies for Grasslyn Manor
Tuesday, July 22, 2025; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET; webinar
This session will present the community-led development of a stormwater strategy for the Grasslyn Manor area of Sherman Park, Milwaukee. Residents have experienced persistent stormwater concerns; in partnership with firm Greenprint Partners, a group of engaged residents formed an Advisory Group to share their stories and concerns. Residents identified and explored potential solutions to stormwater issues. In collaboration with Greenprint, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), and the Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW), they aim to reinforce their hopes for a dry Grasslyn Manor. Hear from the local community, as well as their technical partners, on how they engaged their neighbors, identified an action plan, and got to work to advance some early wins. Presenters: Sydney VanKuren, Director, Planning, Greenprint Partners and Steve O'Connell, Resident Leader, Grasslyn Manor Register here

Community Engineering Corps Program: Real World Application
Wednesday, July 23, 2025; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET; webinar
There are over an estimated 2 million Americans who live without running water and basic plumbing, with Black, Latinx, and Native American households being disproportionately impacted by this lack of adequate infrastructure. These estimates are likely under-reported based on the lack of data and information available within the Domestic WASH Sector. This challenge presents an opportunity for technical volunteers to work alongside these communities, developing solutions that help them secure their right to safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water and wastewater. $0.00 Member Price, $25.00 Non-Member Price Register here

- **MassDEP**
  Previous Cybersecurity Trainings now on YouTube:
  - Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water Utilities: https://youtu.be/78v3eAyf1yE
  - Ransomware Experiences, Defense, and Response: https://youtu.be/eisIsdQnXqE

- **Environmental Finance Center Network**
  For a complete list of trainings webinars and in-person trainings please go to:
  https://efcnetwork.org/training-events/

- **EPA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training.

- **Mass Rural Water Association**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.massrwa.org/p/14/Trainings—Events.

- **MWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  MWWA Calendar

- **NEWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://communityhub.newwa.org/nc__upcomingevents.

- **Water ISAC**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.waterisac.org/resources.

- **RCAP Solutions**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.rcapsolutions.org/events/

- **AWWA**
  For a complete list of trainings, webinars and in-person trainings, please go to:
  https://www.awwa.org/event-calendar/

Training Refresher

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m
or click here: YouTube

To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us.
MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS. Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. To subscribe to the *In The Main Newsletter*, send a blank email to join-dep-dwp-subscribers@listserv.state.ma.us. This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee.

Cybersecurity, Emergency Preparedness, and You!

2025-07-11

PLEASE SHARE THIS CYBERSECURITY INFORATION WITH YOUR SCADA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFF

For additional information and alerts see Cybersecurity Resource Hub for MA Public Water Systems (PWS). The purpose of this hub is to provide resources for public water systems (PWS) to improve cybersecurity defenses, mitigate cyber-attack risks, and enhance overall resiliency and compliance.

Cybersecurity Biweekly Spotlight

Stay Vigilant!! Iranian Cyber Actors May Target Vulnerable US Networks and Entities of Interest (Source: CISA)

- CISA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3), and the National Security Agency (NSA) published Iranian Cyber Actors May Target Vulnerable US Networks and Entities of Interest.
- This joint fact sheet details the need for increased vigilance for potential cyber activity against U.S. critical infrastructure by Iranian state-sponsored or affiliated threat actors. According to the factsheet- At this time, we have not seen indications of a coordinated campaign of malicious cyber activity in the U.S. that can be attributed to Iran.
- However, CISA urges owners and operators of critical infrastructure organizations and other potentially targeted entities to review this fact sheet to learn more about the Iranian state-backed cyber threat and actionable mitigations to harden cyber defenses.
- Access the full factsheet here: https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/iranian-cyber-actors-may-target-vulnerable-us-networks-and-entities-interest
- **MassDEP DWP strongly urges PWS to stay vigilant for potential targeted cyber activity against U.S. critical infrastructure by Iranian-affiliated cyber actors.**
- **Please share this with your relevant staff and strongly encourage you to implement the following mitigations to harden cyber defenses against malicious actors:**

Mitigations/ Immediate Actions:

- **Identify and disconnect OT and ICS assets from the public internet:**
  - ✓ Focus on remote access technologies such as virtual network computing (VNC), remote desktop protocol (RDP), Secure Shell Protocol (SSH) and web management interfaces (as part of an HMI, virtual private network [VPN], or otherwise.
  - ✓ Adopt a deny-by-default allowlist policy to prevent unauthorized access if an asset's remote access cannot be removed.
- **Ensure devices and accounts are protected with strong, unique passwords (if not using multifactor authentication [MFA]) and immediately replace weak or default passwords.**
- **Implement phishing-resistant MFA for accessing OT networks from any other network.**
  - ✓ Consider strategically requiring MFA for changes to high-value controllers that are difficult to Implement phishing-resistant MFA for accessing OT networks from any other network. - Consider strategically requiring MFA for changes to high-value controllers that are difficult to replace or could be significantly impacted if compromised.
- **Apply the manufacturer's latest software patches for internet-facing systems to ensure protection against known vulnerabilities.**
- **Prioritize monitoring user access logs for remote access to the OT network and for implementation of any firmware or configuration changes.**
- **To reduce the impact of a successful intrusion, establish OT processes that prevent unauthorized changes, loss of view, or loss of control (e.g., PLCs in run mode rather than program mode, hardware or software interlocks, safety systems, and redundant sensors).**
- **Ensure business continuity and incident response plans are in place for a swift recovery, including implementing full system and data backups to facilitate any recovery efforts.**
  - ✓ Review incident response plans and update as needed.
  - ✓ Rehearse critical system recovery efforts and related actions, and update incident response plans based on results.
- **Consider how exfiltrated data, such as leaked credentials, could be leveraged to conduct further malicious activity against your network, and ensure security mechanisms are in place to reduce the impact of a potential leak.**

Grants and Funding

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in partnership with MassDEP/DWP, is offering grants funds of **up to $50,000,** to PWSs that have a cybersecurity risk assessment and use operational technology equipment with an identified cybersecurity risk. Details here: Public Water Suppliers Cybersecurity Improvements Grant Program | Mass.gov.

Upcoming Trainings

Securing the Water Sector: Actionable Network Defense with ThreatSTOP
Wednesday, July 23, 2025; 2-3pm ET
Join ThreatSTOP for a dedicated session on strengthening cyber resilience in the water sector. Tracy Kinney from WaterISAC will open the webinar and introduce the speakers, including ThreatSTOP's leadership and Bryon Black, IT Manager at South Coast Water District. Read more

Reminders

Self-Paced Course on Basic Cybersecurity Measures for Water and Wastewater Systems in Massachusetts (Massachusetts Board of Certification Approved for 1 TCH)

- Participants will learn about water sector threats, basic cybersecurity measures, incident response, system resilience, and valuable resources, with the goal of fostering a culture of cybersecurity within their organizations.
- **Enroll Here for Free:** https://classes.wateroperator.org/courses/cybersecurity

2025 Sanitary Surveys and Cybersecurity
Is your PWS scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025? If your PWS is scheduled for a sanitary survey in 2025 MassDEP/DWP will inspect your cybersecurity assessment findings and plans during the upcoming sanitary survey cycle**.** Any findings will be incorporated in a separate action plan and your PWS will receive technical assistance to assist you to address the findings. Please remember all cybersecurity information is considered as sensitive information and must be kept confidential. If you have any questions on this information, you may also contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.
Have you completed a cybersecurity assessment for your PWS? If not, sign up free today!
Register for a free cyber assessment with simple steps by using the following link:
https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/forms/epas-water-sector-cybersecurity-evaluation-program.

All PWS are required to have a cybersecurity plan/program and complete a cybersecurity assessment as part of their Emergency Response Planning (ERP) responsibilities.

Please Note: MassDEP includes cybersecurity checks in capacity evaluations for PWS for DWSRF grant and loans and during or after sanitary surveys or as needed. In addition, the DWSRF program encourages cybersecurity assessments through its Asset Management Planning Grant activities, as well as offers financing for cybersecurity related equipment and software. See details here https://www.mass.gov/state-revolving-fund-srf-financial-assistance-program

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Supply Chain Reminders

Tariffs and Supply Chain issues
Tariffs present significant challenges to the U.S. water sector, primarily through increased costs, supply chain disruptions, and potential impacts on water affordability. While government funding and industry innovations are helping to mitigate some impacts, sustained efforts are crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability and affordability of water services.

PWSs are reminded to implement the steps identified by DWP at https://www.mass.gov/doc/steps-to-prepare-your-public-water-system-for-supply-chain-disruptions/download **and keep MassDEP/DWP informed of all Supply Chain issues. Email us at Program.director-dwp@mass.gov, Subject Supply Chain**

Tools and Resources:

- EPA Chemical Supplier and Manufacturer Locator Tool : This tool allows water and wastewater utilities to search for suppliers and manufacturers across the U.S. that may be able to fulfill their chemical supply needs and increase resilience to supply chain disruptions. This tool can also be useful for finding alternative chemical suppliers in the case of supply chain shortages.

Answer A

B. Massachusetts wasn't founded yet

C. This was the year of the Dust Bowl, it didn't affect Massachusetts

D. This occurred in Arica, Chile